

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are pending and all claims are rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended, claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 11-14 have been added. No new matter is believed to have been added by these amendments. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-14 would be pending.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. 5,436,684 to Hirasawa ("Hirasawa").

Claim 1 is directed to a drive controlling apparatus which includes a memory configured to store preset drive information of each of the optical adjusting members which include at least one preset speed and at least one preset position; a controller configured to control the drive of each of the optical adjusting members on the basis of the preset drive information, including a state in which the plurality of the optical adjusting members are simultaneously driven; and a selection member configured for a user to select a mode from a plurality of modes, each mode having set conditions that correspond to the preset drive information. The controller sets a drive speeds for each optical adjusting member in accordance with the set conditions for the selected mode. Further, one of the plurality of modes includes set conditions that set the drive speed of a first optical adjusting member of the plurality of optical adjusting members to a preset speed and set the drive speed of a second optical adjusting member to a speed calculated from the drive speed of the first optical adjusting member such that

the drive of the first and second optical adjusting members to the preset positions stored in the memory are substantially simultaneously completed.

Claim 1 has been amended to reflect that the modes are speed modes. As reflected in the amended claim, (1) a user selects a speed mode from a plurality of speed modes and drive speeds are set for each optical adjusting member in accordance with the set conditions for the user selected mode, and (2) a first optical adjusting member of the plurality of optical adjusting members is set to a preset speed according to the conditions corresponding to the user selected speed mode and the drive speed of a second optical adjusting member is calculated from the drive speed of the first optical adjusting member and set accordingly such that the first and second optical adjusting members are driven substantially simultaneously to completion to the preset positions (associated with the selected mode).

On the contrary, Hirasawa is directed to a photographing apparatus which tracks the position of the zoom and focus lenses as they move across designated zoom zones (e.g., zoom lens positions between the Wide Angle and Telephoto side), and controls the speed of the focus lens depending on the position information and the speed of the zoom lens. The zoom speed is reduced when the zoom lens is determined to be in a decelerating region, thereby reducing the speed of the focus lens as well. In Hirasawa, the user is simply operating the zoom switch to move the zoom between the Wide Angle or Telephoto positions (which define different zoom zones). The user is not selecting a speed mode from a plurality of speed modes but rather is simply operating a zoom switch to control the zoom lens which moves through different zoom zones and are controlled accordingly based on the zones and other information.

Further, Hirasawa is still silent as to any calculating or setting of the drive speed of the second optical adjusting member such that the drive of the first and second optical

adjusting members to the preset positions stored in the memory are substantially simultaneously completed. There is simply nothing in Hirasawa that discloses or suggest anything in the way of controlling the speed of the focus lens to have the zoom and focus lenses driven substantially simultaneously to completion to the preset positions (associated with the selected mode).

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 and its dependent claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited reference.

New claim 11 recites, in part, a controller configured to control the drives of the first and second optical adjusting members based on the first preset information and the second preset information for the selected preset mode. That is, the first and second optical adjusting members are simultaneously moved at respective constant speeds. Such an arrangement for example keeps variation manners of an image-taking area (angle of view), an F-number and a focus state of the optical system constant, which enables acquisition of image effects such as good realistic sensation and change of the angle of view in a natural way.

Hirasawa does not disclose or suggest at least this above-noted claimed aspect. Accordingly, claim 11 and its dependent claims are also believed to be distinguishable over the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of these amendments.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for timely consideration of this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 504827, Order No. 1004288.53560.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 504827, Order No. 1004288.53560.

Respectfully submitted,
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